

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MIGUEL GONZALEZ-ESPINOZA, :

Petitioner : CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:17-0661

v. :

**YORK COUNTY PRISON, et al., : (Mannion, D.J.)
(Mehalchick, M.J.)**

Respondents :

ORDER

On April 12, 2017, petitioner Miguel Gonzalez-Espinoza, a native of Mexico, filed, through counsel, a petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to [28 U.S.C. §2241](#). (Doc. [1](#)). The petitioner is an alien who is charged as being removable pursuant to 8 U.S.C. §1227(a)(2)(B)(i). On October 16, 2016, the petitioner was detained by ICE under [8 U.S.C. §1226\(c\)](#) and removal proceedings were initiated against him. He was placed in custody at the York County Prison in Pennsylvania and he has been continuously detained by ICE at this prison under §1226(c). The petitioner claims that he has suffered an unreasonably prolonged detention of about 8 months during the pendency of his removal proceedings and, that he has not been afforded an individualized bond hearing in violation of the due process protections required by the United States Constitution. The petitioner requests that a constitutionally adequate bond hearing be conducted by this court, or in the alternative, by an Immigration Judge.

Presently pending before the court is the June 7, 2017 report and

recommendation of Judge Mehalchick, (Doc. [8](#)), recommending that an Immigration Judge be directed to conduct an individualized bond hearing for the petitioner and, therein, granting in part the petitioner's habeas petition. In their response to the habeas petition, (Doc. [4](#), p. 7), the respondents state that "if this Court determines that [an individualized] bond hearing is warranted, Respondents will coordinate with the immigration court to schedule a bond hearing for Petitioner before an immigration judge as expeditiously as possible in accordance with applicable law and regulation." Based on the current case law, Judge Mehalchick finds that the petitioner is entitled to an individualized bond hearing before an Immigration Judge at this time. On June 13, 2017, the respondents and the petitioner filed notices indicating that they had no objections to Judge Mehalchick's report. (Doc. [9](#), Doc. [10](#)).

Where no objection is made to a report and recommendation, the court should, as a matter of good practice, "satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation." [FED. R. CIV. P. 72\(b\)](#), advisory committee notes; see also [Univac Dental Co. v. Dentsply Int'l, Inc., 702 F. Supp. 2d 465, 469 \(2010\)](#) (citing [Henderson v. Carlson, 812 F.2d 874, 878 \(3d Cir. 1987\)](#) (explaining judges should give some review to every report and recommendation)). Nevertheless, whether timely objections are made or not, the district court may accept, not accept, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings or recommendations made by the magistrate judge. [28 U.S.C. §636\(b\)\(1\)](#); Local Rule 72.31.

The court has reviewed Judge Mehalchick's report as well as the applicable law and concurs with her recommendation. The clear guidance of [*Chavez-Alvarez v. Warden York County Prison*, 783 F.3d 469 \(3d Cir. 2015\)](#) and [*Diop v. ICE/Homeland Security*, 656 F.3d 222 \(3d Cir. 2011\)](#) indicate that the petitioner is entitled to a bond hearing to justify his continued detention during removal proceedings. His continued detention will be justified only if it is determined, on an individualized basis, that it is necessary to achieving the goals of the immigration statute, particularly, "ensuring participation in the removal process[] and protecting the community from the danger he . . . poses." [*Chavez-Alvarez*, 783 F.3d at 475](#). It is the government's burden to show that the petitioner's continued detention is necessary to fulfill the above-referenced purposes of the detention statute. [*Diop*, 659 F.3d at 233](#).

Thus, the court will **ADOPT** Judge Mehalchick's report, (Doc. [8](#)), and will **GRANT IN PART** Gonzalez-Espinoza's habeas petition, (Doc. [1](#)), and order that an Immigration Judge conduct an individualized bond hearing within 30 days.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, THAT:

- (1) The report and recommendation of Judge Mehalchick, (Doc. [8](#)), is **ADOPTED**;
- (2) Petitioner Gonzalez-Espinoza's habeas petition, (Doc. [1](#)), is **GRANTED IN PART** to the extent that it seeks an individualized bond hearing;
- (3) An individualized bond hearing shall be conducted by an

Immigration Judge **within thirty (30) days** of the date of this Order;

- (4) At the bond hearing, the government shall bear the burden of demonstrating that Gonzalez-Espinoza's continued detention is still necessary to fulfill the purposes of ensuring that he attends removal proceedings and that his release will not pose a danger to the community under [Diop v. ICE/Homeland Sec., 656 F.3d 221, 231-33 \(3d Cir. 2011\)](#);
- (5) The clerk of court is directed to close this case.

s/ *Malachy E. Mannion*
MALACHY E. MANNION
United States District Judge

Dated: June 15, 2017

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